brought to the notice by the Coir Board to all concerned. Unless Government of India is satisfied that necessary corrective steps have been taken, it is not possible to release any grants for the KCWWFB.

Supply of outdated and obsolete technology

39. SHRI VED PRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey to ascertain that foreign companies have provided outdated and obsolete technology to India;

(b) whether any think tank organisation or monitoring agency is working to check it;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government are aware that the practice of making India a dumping ground of out-dated technologies is very old; and

(e) if so, whether any of the Governments have discovered and acted on it?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (e) No specific survey has been conducted by the Government in the Ministry of Industry to ascertain whether foreign companies have provided outdated and obsolete technology to India.

In the liberalised technology import regime, market competitiveness of a product is the crucial determinant. Hence, technologies being provided to Indian Companies are dependent on the commercial acceptance of such technology in a competitive environment.

Shifting of the Office of Salt Commissioner

40. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation for shifting of Salt Commissioner's office from Calcutta to Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) by when it is likely to be shifted to Ahmedabad?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) There had been a persistent demand from the Salt Manufacturers' Associations of Gujarat as well as the State Government of Gujarat for shifting the Salt Commissioner's Office from Jaipur to a suitable location in Gujarat on the ground that Gujarat contributes about 70% of the total salt production in the country. After careful consideration of the matter, orders were issued by the Government in 1994 to shift the Salt Commissioner's Office from Jaipur to Gandhinagar (Gujarat). However, the All India Salt Department Employees' Union filed a Writ Petition in the Rajasthan High Court at Jaipur against the orders of the Government. While admitting the Writ Petition, the High Court stayed the operation of Government's orders. The matter is still pending before the High Court and is, therefore, sub-judice.

Conversion of SSIs into private limited companies

41. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert small scale industries into private limited companies in order to lend them transparency in their operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to check the increasing sickness in SSI units?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal as entrepreneurs are free to establish a business organization most appropriate to their need viz. Proprietership, firm or company.

(c) Following measures have been taken to check sickness in SSIs:

1. Modified definition of sick SSI Units.
2. Reduced rate of interest for rehabilitation.
3. Prompt viability studies/nursing programmes of identified sick units, setting up of cells at important regional centres, Head Office to deal with the sick industrial units, provision of expert staff, including technical personnel to look into technical aspects.